

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 NSF-01 HEW-04 COME-00 INT-05  
AGRE-00 ERDA-05 EPA-01 NAS-01 CEQ-01 CU-02 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 SS-15 L-03 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 /069 W

----- 042744

O 081240Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9920

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, USINJC, IN

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMISSION- STATUS OF SFC  
PROJECTS

REF: (A) STATE 296482; (B) LETTER SCICOUNS VREBALOVICH TO GERALD  
EDWARDS, NSF, NOVEMBER 30, 1976; (C) BRIEFING PAPER, SCICOUNS  
VREBALOVICH TO CHARGE SCHNEIDER NOVEMBER 22, 1976

1. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH PRESENTATION PROPOSED IN REFTEL A.  
COMMENTS IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL A HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
2. COPIES OF REB B AND REF C WERE HAND CARRIED TO JOHN FRY, OES,  
AND EDWARDS, NSF, BY SCIATT METZNER. THESE REFS PROVIDE THE LATEST  
STATUS OF GOI CLEARANCE ON PENDING SFC PROJECTS AND IS REPEA-  
TED IN PART IN THE FOL PARA 3.

### 3. STATUS OF SFC PROJECTS

A. APPROVED PROJECTS- AS NOTED IN NEW DELHI 16108, ONLY ONE  
PROJECT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY THE GOI USING THE NEW CLEARANCE PRO-  
CEDURE. THIS PROJECT IS ALMOST AN EXTENSION OF AN ONGOING PRO-  
JECT AND IS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE). NO REPEAT  
NO OTHER PROJECT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY THE GOI AND SENT TO THE  
EMBASSY.

B. TWELVE PREVIOUSLY GOI CLEARED PROJECTS- THESE PROJECTS WERE  
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IN THE PIPELINE AND HAD BEEN CLEARED BY THE GOI BEFORE THE NEW

CLEARANCE PROCEDURE HAD BEEN SET UP. THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT CLEAR THEM UNTIL THE NEW PROCEDURE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. THE GOI ASKED THAT THESE BE RESUBMITTED IN JULY OF THIS YEAR.

NINE OF THESE HAD BEEN CLEARED BY THE USG FOR SFC FUNDING - ONE BY NOAA AND EIGHT BY DHEW. THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE (CABINET SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE) ACCEPTED ONE (AS INDICATED IN PARA 3A ABOVE) AND REJECTED FOUR. SEVEN REMAIN TO BE REVIEWED BY THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE. FYI DESHPANDE, DST, TOLD SCICOUNS ON TUESDAY THAT THE DST SCREENING COMMITTEE CLEARED ALL OF THE REMAINING SEVEN PROJECTS RECENTLY WITH A QUALIFICATION ON ONE OF THEM. DESHPANDE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE DATA OF THE PROJECT ON MYCOTOXINS IN FOODS BE QUOTE PRESENTED IN A SCIENTIFIC MANNER UNQUOTE. HE IS CONCERNED THAT PUBLICITY COULD HURT INDIAN EXPORTS. THAT IS, THE INDIANS ARE EXPORTING CERTAIN FOODGRAINS THAT PROBABLY CONTAIN MYCOTOXINS AND PUBLICITY ON THE RESULTS MIGHT AFFECT THESE SALES FYI.

C. PENDING HEALTH PROJECTS- EIGHTEEN HEALTH PROJECTS HAD BEEN PREPARED BY THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) FOR SFC FUNDING PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN CLEARANCE PROCEDURE. THE HEALTH MINISTRY DECIDED THAT TEN OF THESE DID NOT REQUIRE COLLABORATION AND

EIGHT WERE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR US SUPPORT. THESE EIGHT PROJECTS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW.

D. AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS- NO NEW PROJECTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE USDA FROM INDIA SINCE 1974. THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (ICAR) APPROVED 23 NEW PROJECTS FOR SFC FUNDING IN JUNE 1975. EIGHT OF THESE FELL WITHIN THE PRIORITY AREAS ESTABLISHED BY THE SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THAT MET IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. NONE HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY GOI FOR CLEARANCE FOR SFC AND ALL HAVE BEEN PROPOSED TO BE FINANCED FROM THE GOI SPECIAL FUND. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THREE NEW PROJECTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE. TWO OF THE THREE ARE LARGE MULTI-LOCATION RESEARCH GRANTS THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HIGH PRIORITY AREAS BY THE S&T SUBCOMMISSION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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E. OTHER RESEARCH AREAS- THE COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR) HAS SUBMITTED FOUR PROPOSALS FOR SFC SUPPORT TO MOF/DEA FOR HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE REVIEW. TWO OF THESE ARE FOR EPA AND THE OTHER TWO FOR NSF.

THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS' COMMISSION (UGC) OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) HAS APPROVED ABOUT 50 PROJECTS FOR SFC SUPPORT OVER

THE PAST TWO YEARS. THE MOE SCREENING COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED OVER A YEAR AGO TO CONSIDER THESE PROJECTS BUT HAS NOT YET MET. ALMOST NOTHING SEEMS TO MOVE IN THIS MINISTRY.

4. IN THIS WEEK'S MEETING WITH DESHPANDE, HE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WAS CONCERNED WITH THE OVER-LAPPING OF AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCREENING COMMITTEES OF MOE AND DST. HE TOLD THE MOE THAT THERE WAS NO OVERLAP, THAT THE MOE WAS REPRESENTED ON THE DST SCREENING COMMITTEE, AND THAT THE DST SCREENING COMMITTEE, WHICH IS REALLY UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE S&T SUBCOMMISSION FOR SFC PROJECT APPROVAL, WILL ONLY CONSIDER PROJECTS WHICH ARE OF QUOTE BIG SIZE AND IN FRONTIER AREAS UNQUOTE. BY THIS DESHPANDE HOPES TO BYPASS THE MOE; EVEN THOUGH RESEARCH WOULD BE DONE IN UNIVERSITIES.

5. DESHPANDE ALSO FELT THAT HE HAD DONE ALL HE COULD TO GET ANY ACTION BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ON THE LOG JAM OF UNIVERSITY PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN WITH THE MOE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HE SAID THAT PERHAPS CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA). THE ATHERTON/ SINGH REVIEW IS PROPITIOUS. THE INACTION OF MOE SHOULD BE MENTIONED. THE SCREENING COMMITTEE OF THE MOE ESTABLISHED OVER A YEAR AGO HAS NEVER MET. MOST RESEARCH PROPOSALS THAT ORIGINATE WITH UNIVERSITIES NEVER GET TO THE SUBCOMMISSION. US RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING UNIVERSITIES ARE THEREBY CUT OFF FROM THEIR INDIAN UNIVERSITY COUNTERPARTS.

6. SCIATT METZNER IS ATTENDING THE AID WORLD POPULATION OFFICERS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON AND MAY BE CONSULTED IF NECESSARY. HE HAS BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH THE HEALTH PROJECTS AS WELL AS ALL SFC PROJECTS.  
SCHNEIDER

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